



## Cross Purposes 2

### The verdict at the cross

#### Righteousness & Justice:

Write down a definition of “*righteous*”

Write down a definition of “*just*”

What’s the difference between the two?

- In what ways is God’s righteousness / justice revealed?
- What about the righteousness of men and women?  
*Ps.14:2-3; Ps.143:2; Is.64:6; Rom.3:23*

#### God as Judge:

When will God’s judgment on the world finally be carried out?  
*Act.17:30-31; Heb.9:27; Mt.25:31-33*

How does the cross change that for Christians?  
*Rom.4:25; 1Pet.3:18; Rom.8:1; Eph.2:6*

#### God’s Son bearing guilt:

Abelard (1079-1142) taught the “Moral Influence” theory:  
The cross affects us so much that we repent of our sins  
and therefore God forgives us.

How would you respond to someone who says Jesus died on the cross, “to show us how much God loves us”?

How is it that many martyrs went joyfully to their deaths, but Jesus went to the cross in anguish?  
(Compare *Act.7:59-60* with *Mk.14:32-34; Mk.15:34*)

Rom.3:25; 1Jn.4:10

What are we to understand by, “atoning sacrifice”?

**Propitiation**  
means  
“making favourable”

On the cross  
Jesus propitiated God for us.  
He turned aside God's wrath  
by taking it on himself.



Is it not unjust  
for God to put the  
blame on Jesus  
for our sins?

**God's people declared innocent:**

Write down a definition of “*innocent*”

Write down a definition of “*forgiven*”

What's the difference between the two?

What's the status of Christians before God?

“Innocent”? Or, “forgiven”?

Rom.3:23-24; 2Cor.5:21

**Justified**  
means  
“declared righteous”  
(not, “made righteous”)

**Righteousness through faith in Christ:**

Rom.1:17 – “In the gospel **the righteousness of God** is revealed ...the righteous **by faith** will live.”

God's righteousness / justice is revealed in his promised acquittal of those who put their faith in Jesus and his death on the cross in their place. They are justified / declared righteous – the verdict at the end of time brought into the present.

“You, Lord Jesus, are my righteousness,  
And I am your sin.  
You have taken what was mine,  
And have given me what was yours.  
You became what you were not,  
So that what I was not, I might become.”  
[Martin Luther]